

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CLASS LOADER CONSTRAINT CHECKING**ABSTRACT**

5 An object-oriented computer system includes two or
more class loaders for loading program class files into the
system. A constraint checking mechanism is provided so that
where a first class file loaded by a first class loader
makes a symbolic reference to a second class file loaded by
a second class loader, with said symbolic reference
including a descriptor of a third class file, the
constraint enforces that the first and second class files
agree on the identity of the third class file. The
constraint checking mechanism stores a list of constraints
as a set of asymmetric relationships between class loaders.
Each stored constraint, for a class loader which loaded a
class file that contains a symbolic reference to another
class file, includes a first parameter denoting the class
loader which loaded the class file to which the symbolic
references is made; and a second parameter denoting a class
file which is identified by a descriptor in said symbolic
reference.